

# GENE AUTRY

PERFORMS



# GENE AUTRY

## and The HAUNTED RANCH

WENT THE HORSE DOWN IN THE  
BUSHES—CAN TELL US WHERE  
TO FIND THE TRAILER? JIM—NO,  
DARBY!



HEY, BUSTER! WHICH WAY IS THE ROAD  
TO JIM KERR'S RANCH THE TRAILER?



IT'S RIGHT DOWN THAT HILL! BUT IF YOU'RE  
SMART YOU'LL STEER CLEAR O' THAT  
OUTCROPP!



HEY! WHAT'S AHEAD  
WITH THE TRAILER?

PLENTY! THERE BEEN SHOWN THERE  
FOR YEARS! AN IT'S BEEN KILLED  
THAT SINCE JIM GOT MURDERED!

JIM KERR KILLED? WHEN?  
HOW? WHO DID IT?



WELL, THE SHERIFF FIGURED IT WAS  
AHEAD! BUT EVERYBODY ELSE THINKS  
IT WOULD'N' NO HUMAN BEING KILLED  
THAT TRAILER!



WHY I DON'T DARE!

I AM NOT DARE! NO MORE! SHOTS CAN REAR AS I AMT DARE! HAVE EL WENTO HUNTER AND FOR TALKIN' ABOUT HIM!



EL WENTO! THAT BRING THE WIND! POWDER, BOW, SWORDS AND PLAINS HIM FOR AN OLD FRIENDS MURDER!



LOOK AT THAT HOUSE! I NEVER THOUGHT JIM'D BUILD A PLACE LIKE THIS, NO MATTER HOW RICH HE GOT!



DAVE REAR MUST BE THE HUNTER FROM WHO JIM MENTIONED IN HIS LETTER—THE YOUNG FELLOW HE SAID WAS HIS MEN!



I DARE HERE YOU'VE DARE ACHIEVE!

I AMT AN YOU MUST BE DARE! JIM REAR HE ABOUT YOU! I JUST HEARD ABOUT HIS DEATH - HE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST MEN I EVER KNOW!



THAT'S WHAT HE ALWAYS SAID ABOUT YOU! WHEN THE TROUBLE STARTED HE THOUGHT OF SENDING FOR YOU! I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU EVERY DAY!

HE LETTER WAS DELAYED REACHER! HE' I WAS DARE IN SAN ANTONIO ...



I WISH I COULD'VE BEEN JIM AGAIN! WHAT HAPPENED DAVE?

HE WAS SHOT DOWN IN THE LITTLE BUSH, THOUGH NOT FAR FROM TO THE HOUSE!



I HEARD SOME TALK ABOUT A BANDIT EL WENTO.

THAT CRAZY BOSSIE'S COSTIN' ME PLANTY'D TROUBLE! MY CONVINCS ARE THREATENIN' TO CUT!

SPOTS, YOU BEEN AT THE RECONRY, DAVE?

EL WENTO WAS A BANDIT IN THE OLD SPANISH DAYS! HE BUILT THIS HOUSE! THERE'S A LEGEND THAT, EVERY TWENTY-FIVE YEARS, HE COMES BACK TO MOUNT IT AND BROWBEAT THE TENANTS!

A WEEK BEFORE CYCLE JOH WAS SHOT, STRANGE THINGS BEGAN TO HAPPEN! FLICKERING LIGHTS AT NIGHT, WEIRD WHISTLES, BARKING MOTER...

WHEN CYCLE JOH GOT A DEATH DREAM, HE LAUGHED AT IT! THAT NIGHT A SHOT AWOKE HE! I RAN DOWNSTAIRS AND FOUND HIM— DYING!

HE WASN'T WID STRENGTH ENOUGH TO WHISPER ONE SENTENCE— "TELL GENE CHIEF YELLOW HARE..."

CHIEF YELLOW HARE? THAT'S ONE INDIAN I NEVER HEARD OF!

IT'S THE RIGHT NAME, IN SURE! THEN CYCLE JOH DIED WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD!

A SHOOT BANDIT, AND AN INDIAN STORY! IT SOUNDS GOOD, DAVE! GIVE ANYONE ELSE KNOW ABOUT JUNE RELEASE TO ME?

NO! I FIGURED IT WAS HOOBOO'S BUSINESS, NOT YOURS!



IF THEY QUIT, I'M GIVIN' A TENDERFOOT  
LIKE ME THREE PLANTS OF HELP TO RUN  
THIS BIG RANCH

DON'T WORRY, DAVE! I'LL SEE  
YOU THROUGH! NOW LET'S GET  
GOIN'!



A LITTLE WHILE BEFORE YOU RODE IN,  
WALT SAID HE WAS GOING TO TOWN TO  
TELL THE SHERIFF SOMETHING ABOUT  
THE MURDER!



DID ANYBODY ELSE HEAR HIM SAY THAT?  
YES! THREE OR FOUR OF THE  
BOYS WERE THERE!



THINK CAREFULLY, DAVE! IF THE  
KILLER OVERHEARD WALT, WOULDN'T  
HE FIGURE WALT KNEW SOMETHING  
ABOUT JOHN'S MURDER?

WHY, IN - YES!



THEN WOULDN'T HE HIT LEATHER  
FAST TO AMBUSH WALT ON THE  
WAY TO TOWN? BEFORE HE COULD  
SAY WHAT HE KNEW TO THE  
SHERIFF?



IF THAT'S TRUE, GENE, IT MEANS THE  
MURDERER MUST BE RIGHT HERE ON  
THE TIMBLIN-KA!

EITHER THAT OR HE'S GOT A PAL  
HERE!



... A FEW MINUTES LATER ...

... AN' THAT'S HOW IT HAPPENED, BOYS! WALT  
WAS PROBABLY SHOT TO KEEP HIM FROM  
TALKIN' TO THE SHERIFF! SO IF YOU COME  
ACROSS ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS, DON'T TALK  
ABOUT IT - EXCEPT TO ME!











DID YOU SEE THE GHOST DOIN' THESE THINGS, WHODDER?

HOPE! I BUD IN TH FRONT PARLOR TRYIN TO FIND OUT WHO WAS PLAYIN AND BEETIN!

WHOLE JUNE GUTAR HADNT BEEN OUT OF THE CASE SINCE HE DIED!



I'LL SHOW YOU! I WAS SO SHOOKED, I LEFT EVERYTHING JUST LIKE IT WAS!



IT'S WORKIN' SWELL, HANK, BUT LET'S GET RID O' THAT ASTRAK BIRD, FIRST! HE'S TOO NOBY!

DON'T WORRY, ASTRAK! WE'LL FIX HIM!



THAT IT IS! ON THE CHAIR! RIGHT WHERE JUNE GHOST LEFT IT!

THAT'S UNCLE'S GUTAR, ARE ENOUGH!



WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE JUNE GHOST WAS PLAYIN' IT, WHODDER?

CAUSE THE TUNE I HEARD WAS HIS FAVORITE - "ROBINSON IN THE ISLANDS" - HE WAS ALWAYS PLAYIN' IT!



THE WHODDERS ALL LOOKED ASTRAK AN' JUNE TH FRONT DOOR! NOBODY BUT A G-GHOST COULDA GOT IN HERE WITHOUT ME SEEN' HIM!



BUT SOMEBODY DID GET IN - AN' IT WENT  
A SHOOT! WHEN YOU WENT TO THE PARLOR,  
WHOPPER, THAT RECKON SLIPPED OUT TO  
THE KITCHEN AN' -

BUT THAT AIN'T POSSIBLE -

ANOTHERS DON'T ALL THO' KNEW YOUR  
UNCLE HONKY WELL, DAVE - HIS  
FAVORITE TUNE AN' NOW HE REELED  
AN APPLE -

THAT'S NOT MUCH HELP, GENE! EVERYBODY HERE  
HAS BEEN ON THE PLACE AT LEAST A YEAR!  
THEY ALL KNEW UNCLE JOH'N WELL!

BE SURE TO BLOCK THE DOOR GOS I  
CAN GET AWAY, ARTIE!

OKAY, BOSS!

HEY BOON, ARTIE! STAY'S COMIN' INTO  
RANGE!

WHAT?



THAT'S S-HORT!



COVER THE WINDOW DAVE!



COMPLAIN



GET OUTA MY WAY!

THERE'S NOBODY IN THERE!



I DON'T STAND FOR ANYBODY  
DASHIN' AROUND! WHO ARE YOU  
AN WHAT DO YOU WANT?



THIS IS ARTIE BAPES ONE OF THE BAYON  
HANDS, GENE! WHAT'S THE MATTER,  
ARTIE?

OLENTY! TAKE A BANDER  
AT TWO!



LOOK AT MY PRIZE MEXICAN  
SADDLE! OUT TO RIDE! IT COST ME  
A HUNDRED BUCKS!



IF YOU ASK ME, THE BIRD THAT DONE IT  
WAS ONE O' THEM SHORTS! YUH GOT  
HANSIN' AROUND HERE!

I SPOUSE IT WAS THE ONE JUST  
THREW THE HAMME AT ME! MAYBE  
YOU SAW HIM?

I DON'T KNOW NOTHING ABOUT NO KNIFE, THAGGERS, NAUGHTY! I COME FOR MY MONEY! I'M GUTTIN'!



BE SENSIBLE AFTER THERE'S NO JOON THING AS SHOTS!

OUT GABBY! AN' PAY ME OFF!



EVER SEE THIS KNIFE BEFORE, HONKIE?

Y-YESH - IT'S MY BREAD KNIFE! B-BUT, I DIDN'T!



I'M SURE YOU DIDN'T THROW IT AWAY AN' I'M GETTIN' AN IDEA WHO DID!



AREE SHOOT TROUBLE, BUTTY?

YEH! AREED GATTIN'!



DETTY JOON THERE WOON BE A DEMAND LEFT ON THE PLACE! DARE OUNTA JELL OUT LIKE JIM HAYTED HIM TO - AN' SO TO COLLEGE!

IF ANYBODY'S BEEN ON A HUNTED RANCH, WHO'D BUY ONE?



I MIGHT BUY IT! I AMN'T SCARED O' SHOTS!

THAT'S RIGHT INTERESTIN' HONKA PUTS YOU IN A CLAMP BY YOURSELF DOREN'T IT?







NOT SO FAST, HARRY! LISTEN, BOND! HE PROMISED TO CLAM UP THIS WHOLEY IN THE NEXT THIRTY-FOUR. NOODLE WILL NOW STICK IT OUT TILL THEN!



IN WILLIN' - I COULDE..WHIT ON, HARRY!

A-ALL RIGHT, B-BUT IF I DON'T WAKE UP DEAD TOMORROW IN HARRY, I'LL BE B-B-BLASSHO!



I KNOW SHERIFF MARKS REMEMBERS HE SAID, JOE HE MONT MIND ANSWERIN' A COUPLE O' QUESTIONS!



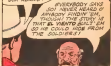
I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE TAKIN' ON THIS CASE, ASTRY! I'VE GOT MY HANDS FULL--

I'M GLAD TO DO WHAT I CAN, SHERIFF, BUT I MAY NEED YOUR HELP AT THE SHOWDOWN!



TO LIVE TO KNOW TWO THINGS.. FIRST ARE THERE ANY SECRET PASSAGES IN THAT HOUSE OF WHIM KERR'S?

EVERYBODY SAYS JOE NEVER HEARD OF ANYBODY FINDIN' 'EM, THOUGH! THE STORY IS THAT EL WENTO BUILT 'EM SO HE COULD HIDE FROM THE SOLDIERS!



THE SECOND THING IS-- HAVE YOU HEARD OF AN INDIAN IN THESE PARTS CALLED "CHIEF YELLOW HAIR"?

NOH! THERE ANT BEEN ANY INDIAN IN THIS COUNTY FOR THIRTY YEARS!



SEND WORD IF YOU NEED ME, BENE! I'LL COME BACK! SORRY I WASN'T MUCH HELP.

YOU'VE HELPED A LOT, SHERIFF!











WOULD IT BETTER NOT TAKE CHANCES  
BY BEING SEEN BY THE HORRORS  
THAT MADE THOSE MARKS?



IF I HAD GONE TO HIDE SOMETHING  
GOOD, I'D RICH THE BARNY MATEE HE  
DID, TOO!



THERE'S WITHIN THAT COULD MAKE  
THOSE MARKS DOWN HERE! SO WHEN  
I'M IN THE MAYLOFT!



I'VE HIT SOMETHING!



STILTS! DO THEYER WANT MAKE THOSE MARKS  
AN' RAISED HIM UP TO WHODDER'S ROOM? THAT  
HORROR'S A SMART ONE!



PHOSPHORESCENT BUNT! THAT  
EXPLAINS WHODDER'S GHOST WITH A  
BUNT FACE!



HE USE TURN HIM OFF IN HIDE TO  
HIS LITTLE BUNT, TELL ON READY TO  
STRET DEALIN THE LAST HAND!





NEW ARTIST ON YOUR FEET!

DO THEY? I WAS UP HALF  
THE NIGHT PLAYIN' GHOST!

HE GOTTA ROCK FAST! ASTRY'S  
GATTRY TOO SMART FOR COMFORT!

"GARY'S GOT HIS PLAN"

AFTER CHUCK, I'LL SEND DAVE AN'  
THE BOYS TO FIX UP THE FENCE IN  
THE NORTH PASTURE! SOON'S THEY  
LEAVE, YOU GET INTO THE SECRET  
PASSAGE -- AN STAY THERE!

I'LL DROP A HINT TO ASTRY THAT THE  
FIREPLACE CARVING'S MIGHT GIVE TO  
THE SECRET PASSAGE -- AN WHEN HE  
WOLF SNOOPIN' --

I GET IT!

LATER... DAVE,  
SANDY AND MONTE  
LEAVE FOR THE  
NORTH PASTURE.

THANKS FOR TALKIN' MY PLACE, GARY! I'M STILL  
LAME FROM WHIPPED HELLER ON ME! AN'  
THAT FENCE SURE NEEDS FIXIN'!

THAT'S OKAY, HARRY!  
I'LL TAKE MONTE AND  
SANDY AN' GO RIGHT  
OUT THERE!

HOW TO TAKE CARE O' AFTER ASTRY

HOLD IT, BOYS! WE'LL LEAVE THE  
HORSES HERE AND GO BACKIN' FOOT  
LIKE GARY TOLD US!

IF AUSTIN KNEW HOW THEY TALK D'RING ABOUT  
THE SECRET PASSAGE, HE'D BE RIGHT IN  
LINE WITH THE WINDOW!



YEAH! THERE HE IS THE DOG!



HERE'S WHERE THE TUMBLIN-K CAME A  
THIRD GUEST!



IF HE GUESSED RIGHT, MARK SHOULD  
BE ALONE ANY MOMENT NOW!



WATCHING SOME ONE HADEN GASTON!



Owww!









TOO BAD IT DIDNT BUST TO PEECES!  
I ALWAYS HATED THAT BEEH-LOWIN'  
CHIEF YELLOW HAIR!

CHIEF YELLOW HORN?? THIS IS  
GENERAL CUSTER?



I REMEMBER HOW THE INDIANS  
CALLED GENERAL CUSTER, "CHIEF  
YELLOW HORN."



HERE, WHO'DNT HAVE ONTO THIS TILL HE  
GET A COUPLE OF OTHER THINGS  
CLEANED UP!



IS-DOESNT JIM NEVER EVEN LET  
ME SEE? THIS PICTURE!!



HERE'S YOUR GHOST, BOY!! - ARTIE SAYS!  
ONLY IM AFRAID HE WOYNT LIVE LONG ENOUGH  
TO HANG!

WOYNT WHADDAYA MEAN?!



IM BETTY SURE THAT BART YOU USED  
WHEN YOU SCALED BUCKNER WITH THE  
GHOST FACE WAS POISONED? IF...

POISONED?!



I GUESS MARK FIGURED IF HE  
GOT RID OF YOU TOO, HE'D  
HAVE ALL THE CASH FOR  
HIMSELF!





